

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of doing business over a network comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for transmitting digital information after a start time and before an end time,

5 the digital information having a number of packets;

determining the time required to transmit the digital information based on the number of packets

and a network speed;

scheduling a transmit time for the digital information; and

accepting the digital information for transmission only if the time required to transmit is less than

or equal to the difference between the transmit time and the end time.

2. A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is transmitted at a first price.

3. A method, as in claim 1, where the digital information is rejected for transmission if the time
required to transmit is more than the difference between the transmit time and the end time.

4. A method, as in claim 3, where the digital information is accepted for transmission at a

15 second price.

5. A method, as in claim 3, where the digital information is rescheduled by the scheduler and accepted for transmission at a second price after the information is rejected.

6. A method, as in claim 1, that receives an acknowledgment of the transmission.

7. A method, as in claim 6, that produces a bill on receipt of the acknowledgment.

8. A method, as in claim 1, where one or more portions of the digital information are accepted for transmission and are transmitted.

9. A method, as in claim 8, that receives an acknowledgment of the transmission of one or more of the portions.

10. A method, as in claim 9, that produces a bill on receipt of the acknowledgment for one or more of the portions.

11. A method, as in claim 1, where one or more portions of the digital information are initially rejected and then accepted for transmission at one or more second times and at one or more second prices.

19. A method, as in claim 18, where the criteria include any one or more of the following: a file size, a release time, a deadline, zero or more recipients, zero or more user locations, an acknowledgment, a negative acknowledgment, a partial acknowledgment, a bandwidth, a quality of service, a retransmission count, and a retransmission schedule.

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